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Appln No. 10/611,753

Amdt date June 23, 2006

Reply to Office action of February 23, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) A frac blender lifting system comprising:

a transport vehicle;

a lift frame mounted to the transport vehicle;

a bracket mounted to the lift frame;

a frac blender supported by the bracket; and

a drive system adapted to move the frac blender relative to the lift frame in a vertical path between a transporting position and a operating position which is at or near ground level.

8. (New) The system of claim 7, wherein bending stresses incurred during a movement of the frac blender are transferred to the lift frame.

9. (New) The system of claim 8, wherein said bending stresses are not transferred to the drive system.

10. (New) The system of claim 7, further comprising a transfer bar moveable by the drive system to transfer a force from the drive system to the frac blender to move the frac blender along said vertical path.

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11. (New) The system of claim 10, wherein the transfer bar transfers said force from the drive system to the frac blender without transferring bending stresses to the drive system.

12. (New) A frac blender lifting system comprising:

- a transport vehicle;
- a lift frame mounted to the transport vehicle and comprising at least one slide rail;
- a bracket mounted to the at least one slide rail;
- a frac blender supported by the bracket; and
- a drive system adapted to move the frac blender in a vertical path along the at least one slide rail between a transporting position and a operating position which is at or near ground level.

13. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein bending stresses incurred during a movement of the frac blender are transferred to the at least one slide rail.

14. (New) The system of claim 13, wherein said bending stresses are not transferred to the drive system.

15. (New) The system of claim 12, further comprising a transfer bar adapted to transfer a force from the drive system to the frac blender to move the frac blender along said vertical path.

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16. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein bending stresses incurred during a movement of the frac blender are transferred to the at least one slide rail.

17. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein said bending stresses are not transferred to the drive system.

18. (New) The system of claim 15, wherein the at least one slide rail comprises a first edge and a second edge defining a receiving area therebetween, and wherein a width of the transfer bar is disposed within the receiving area such that a gap exists between the receiving area and the width of the transfer bar.

19. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the transfer bar transfers an upward force to said first edge during an upward movement of the frac blender and a downward force to said second edge during a downward movement of the frac blender.

20. (New) A frac blender lifting system comprising:

a transport vehicle;

a lift frame mounted to the transport vehicle and comprising at least one slide rail;

a transfer bar, the at least one slide rail comprising a receiving area for receiving the transfer bar;

a bracket mounted to the at least one slide rail;

a frac blender supported by the bracket; and

a drive system adapted to move the frac blender in a vertical path along the at least one slide rail between a

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transporting position and a operating position which is at or near ground level, wherein the transfer bar transfers a force from the drive system to the at least one slide rail to move the frac blender along said vertical path, and wherein bending stresses incurred during a movement of the frac blender are transferred to the at least one slide rail.

21. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein said bending stresses are not transferred to the drive system.

22. (New) The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one slide rail comprises a first edge and a second edge defining the receiving area therebetween, and wherein a width of the transfer bar is disposed within the receiving area such that a gap exists between the receiving area and the width of the transfer bar.

23. (New) The system of claim 22, wherein the transfer bar transfers an upward force to said first edge during an upward movement of the frac blender and a downward force to said second edge during a downward movement of the frac blender.

24. (New) A method of lifting a frac blender comprising:
providing a transport vehicle;
mounting a lift frame comprising at least one slide rail to the transport vehicle, wherein the at least one slide rail comprises a receiving area for receiving a transfer bar;
mounting a bracket to the at least one slide rail;
mounting the frac blender to the bracket; and

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activating a drive system to move the frac blender in a vertical path along the at least one slide rail between a transporting position and a operating position which is at or near ground level.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising transferring a force through the transfer bar from the drive system to the at least one slide rail to move the frac blender along said vertical path.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein bending stresses incurred during a movement of the frac blender are transferred to the at least one slide rail.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said bending stresses are not transferred to the drive system.

28. (New) The system of claim 27, wherein the at least one slide rail comprises a first edge and a second edge defining the receiving area therebetween, and wherein a width of the transfer bar is disposed within the receiving area such that a gap exists between the receiving area and the width of the transfer bar.

29. (New) The system of claim 28, wherein the transfer bar transfers an upward force to said first edge during an upward movement of the frac blender and a downward force to said second edge during a downward movement of the frac blender.